

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

34th Alaska Legislature
LRS Report 25-090
January 30, 2025



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Enrollment and Graduation Rates for Correspondence School Students

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***You asked about graduation rates for correspondence school students in Alaska.
You were also interested in a breakdown of student enrollment by type of school.***

There are four alternative schooling options for students who don't attend traditional public schools in Alaska.

1. Correspondence programs are district-supported schooling options that take place in the home or other non-classroom setting as described in [AS 14.03.300](#). Correspondence students are required to participate in the statewide student assessment program. The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) maintains a *directory* of district-supported correspondence programs.
2. Charter schools are approved by local school boards and DEED and operate in local school districts. Those schools are provided certain exemptions regarding textbook, program, curriculum, and scheduling requirements described in [AS 14.03.255](#). They are given a program budget as part of their contract with the local school board.
3. Private K-12 schools may not directly receive public funds pursuant to Article VII, Sec. 1 of the Alaska Constitution. Though, by federal law and [AS 14.45](#), public school districts are required to provide equitable services with applicable federal funds for students and teachers at eligible private schools that choose to participate in these services. For example, private schools are eligible for Title I funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which target schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families for additional academic support.
4. Homeschooling in Alaska refers to schooling without any district affiliation or state curriculum. [AS 14.30.010\(b\)\(12\)](#) exempts a child from compulsory attendance in the state's public school system if they are "being educated in the child's home by a parent or legal guardian."

Table 1 on the next page shows total enrollment for K-12 students in public, charter, and private schools and correspondence programs. The number of truly homeschooled students (not participating in a district-sponsored correspondence program) is unknown. Traditional public school students make up more than three-quarters of Alaska's student population. The remainder primarily consists of students

enrolled in correspondence programs and a much smaller contingency of charter and private school students.

**Table 1: Enrollment in Alaska Schools
by Type**

Type of School	Enrollment K - 12	Share of Total
Public	99,755	76%
Correspondence	22,579	17%
Charter	5,597	4%
Private	3,504	3%
Total	131,435	

Sources: Public, Correspondence, and Charter from Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development Data Center (2023-2024 school year); Private from National Center for Education Statistics (2021-2022 school year)

Graduation rates are available from the state department of education for Alaska’s traditional public schools, charter schools, and correspondence programs. Data is not available for private school or homeschool students.

Table 2 on the following page shows graduation rates for school districts that offer correspondence programs. It includes the rate for total student populations in those districts and the rate for students enrolled in a correspondence program. Some students who are enrolled in a correspondence program are also enrolled in courses at a public school. Alaska Admin Code (4 AAC 09.040) describes how to count correspondence students who are part-time public school students. One student cannot be more than one full-time equivalent for state funding purposes.

Table 2: 2024 Graduation Rates for Alaska Correspondence Schools by District

District	All Schools	Correspondence Schools
Alaska Gateway School District	50%	33%
Anchorage School District	82%	79%
Chatham School District	70%	0%
Chugach School District	71%	68%
Copper River School District	85%	83%
Cordova City School District	89%	0%
Craig City School District	60%	47%
Delta/Greely School District	87%	82%
Denali Borough School District	90%	90%
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District	80%	76%
Galena City School District	74%	73%
Haines Borough School District	94%	100%
Hydaburg City School District	67%	100%
Iditarod Area School District	57%	57%
Juneau Borough School District	85%	69%
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	79%	63%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District	77%	11%
Kodiak Island Borough School District	87%	71%
Lake and Peninsula Borough School District	81%	60%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District	86%	74%
Nenana City School District	44%	39%
Nome Public Schools	71%	33%
Northwest Arctic Borough School District	71%	73%
Sitka School District	80%	20%
Southeast Island School District	71%	75%
Yakutat School District	75%	67%
Yukon-Koyukuk School District	68%	66%

Source: Alaska Dept. of Education and Early Development Data Center

Please note: The graduation rate methodology used by the state reflects a federal mandate to use a uniform graduation rate, known as the Four Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate. A cohort graduation year is assigned to each ninth grade student in the fall of their initial entry. The expectation of the adjusted cohort graduation rate is that the student will graduate within four years. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the number in the cohort. A graduate is defined as a student who has received a regular diploma from a state or district approved education program; it does not include a student who receives a certificate of achievement or a GED.

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.